BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,

1 9 5 9.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

North Riding of Yorkshire.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the

year ending

31st December, 1959.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Bedale Rural District Council,

SIR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

The year has been notable for:-

(1) Considerable progress in the development of the Housing programme.

(2) The completion of the Bedale and Aiskew Sewerage Scheme.

(3) The realisation that the water supply for the Area, which was previously thought to be adequate, is apt to be insufficient in times of drought and is in need of some form of permanent augmentation.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(1) One Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)
(2) One Public Health Inspector & Surveyor (Full-time)
(3) One Additional Public Health Inspector (Part-time)
(4) One Waterworks Manager (Full-time).

STATISTICS.

Area	43,302 acres,
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1959)	8,400
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1959)	2,269
Rateable Value of the Area	£89,920
Product of a Penny Rate	£ ,360.15.8.

NOTE:

The figure given above for the estimated population includes Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the Area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	68	79	147	Birth Rate
Illegitimate	3	2	5	18.0
	71	81	152	
Stillbirths.				
Legitimate	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Deaths.	34	40	74	(Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8.8

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Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under One Week of Age.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory facilities. (b) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
(c) Nursing Services. (d) Hospitals.
(e) Ambulance Services.

During the year there has again been some slight improvement in the accommodation for the chronic sick and infirm when hospitalisation is needed but accommodation in Old Folks' Homes is still inadequate.

The remaining services, referred to above, have proved to be adequate for the Area during the year.

DATA SUPPLIED BY THE WATERWORKS MANAGER.

W A T E R.

QUANTITY.

Owing to the prolonged drought and the increased demands during the Summer it became necessary to turn off the water supply in some areas in the Bedale Rural District during the evenings between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. This was carried out two or three nights each week. In addition, notices to consumers were posted in every Parish asking that the utmost care be taken in the use of water and that the watering of gardens be discontinued and all waste stopped. The response of the public to these restrictions was satisfactory and it did not become necessary for any consumer to be prosecuted for contravening them.

By doing so the Council was able to afford a satisfactory supply for drinking and domestic purposes during the daytime.

QUALITY.

The water supply to the Area has been treated by Chlorination and the quality has been satisfactory since my last report. Twenty-one samples have been taken from fittings supplied by the Council's mains in various parts of the Rural District. All of these were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton, for analysis and with the exception of two proved very satisfactory.

MAINS EXTENSION.

During the year, mains extensions have been carried out at Aiskew to supply the Council's building site and from Morton in the Northallerton Rural District to Scruton Lane Ends and Blow Houses in the Bedale Rural District.

FRACTURED MAINS.

Since my last year's report, work on fractured mains has been carried out at Aiskew, West Tanfield, Stubbin Nook, Leeming, Well, Snape Lane, Bedale, Thornton Watlass and Rand Grange. In all cases this work has been undertaken and carried out with the least possible inconvenience to the consumers concerned.

PRESSURE RECORDINGS.

Pressure recorders have been installed in various places in the Bedale and the Leyburn Rural District Council's areas of supply for testing and record purposes.

AUXILIARY SUPPLY.

In view of the prolonged drought throughout the Summer of this year, arrangements were made with the Northallerton Rural District Council for a temporary supply, up to 50,000 gallons per day, to be delivered into the Bedale Area at a point near Morton Bridge. This supply originates at the Northallerton Water Board's Cod Beck Source, which supply is fully treated. The Council is endeavouring to make a more permanent arrangement with the Northallerton Rural District Council and for a supply, if necessary, of a quantity in excess of the 50,000 gallons per day. This supplementary supply is included in the figures showing daily consumption in the next paragraph hereof.

CONSUMPTION.

Approximate daily consumption in the Bedale Rural District. (Normal consumers)	440,000
Approximate daily consumption in the Leyburn Rural District.	90,000
Leeming Aerodrome.	102,000
Approximate total daily consumption.	632,000 galls.

CONNECTIONS AND METERS.

During the year 61 connections have been made with the Council's mains and 8 meters installed. These are supplying farms, private dwellinghouses and Council Houses etc. in the Bedale Rural District.

DATA SUPPLIED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Bedale and Aiskew Sewerage Scheme has been completed during the year under review and sewage was first admitted into the new disposal works on the 16th March, 1959. The works, since then, have generally operated satisfactorily although from time to time pump blockages have caused difficulty but samples of the effluent have on all occasions been classified as good. The greatest trouble encountered however has been due to excessive flows to the works during times of storm. Large quantities of surface water reach the sewers in Bedale from road water gullies etc., and within a very short time of heavy rain falling the flow at the works exceeds 25,000 gallons per hour and although this is by-passed into the storm water tanks and thence to the river the heavy flow causes serious surcharging and scouring in the detritus tank and grit channels and on occasions the flow has been so great that the tanks have overflowed. This trouble will eventually have to be overcome by providing separate storm water sewers in Bedale as is now the case in Aiskew where the old sewers were left intact to carry away surface water.

Soon after the Disposal Works were brought into action complaints began to arise from the residents of a small section of South End, Bedale, of nuisance from smell alleged to be caused by the sewage works. These complaints, which eventually reached the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, were carefully investigated and at the same time special precautions were taken in the management of the works with the result that no real nuisance could be proved and since that time no further complaints have been received.

With the completion of the Bedale and Aiskew Scheme the Council proceeded to consider further very essential Schemes for the area and decided to deal with the following villages, Thornton Watlass, Leeming and Leeming Bar, Snape, Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes and Crakehall. Schemes which had already been prepared for these places were therefore re-examined and it was decided to proceed next with the Leeming and Leeming Bar Scheme and also the Thornton Watlass Scheme. Both schemes were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and it is hoped that a local enquiry into th Leeming and Leeming Bar Scheme will be held early in 1960. At Thornton Watlass difficulty is being encountered in the purchase of the necessary land but it is hoped that this will be acquired by agreement at an early date.

In the District generally there have been no improvements made to the sewers and sewage disposal facilities and the increasing number of bathrooms and water closets now being installed in houses is simply adding to the pollution already present in gutters and watercourses.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service has continued unchanged during the year and the Contractor appears to be giving a satisfactory service as few complaints of neglect are received.

Privy ashpits are being slowly cleared away which is improving the working conditions of the men employed on refuse collection. 65 privies have been converted to water closets in the year and this number will increase as proper sewers are provided. As an indication of this, the Council offered a grant of £10. 0. 0. for each privy converted to a W.C. in the villages of Aiskew, Leeming Bar and Bedale with the result that there are now no privies in Bedale, only 3 in Aiskew and 4 in Leeming Bar. These will be cleared away as a result of improvement schemes and demolition proceedings which are pending. It is obvious, therefore, that as proper sewers become available refuse collection will become largely a matter of collecting dustbins from each house and thus the danger of fly-borne infection and nuisance from the privy midden will vanish. All refuse is disposed of by tipping at two tips in the District. Tipping is controlled as far as possible and the tips are regularly treated to destroy rats by a Contractor specialising in the work.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ no staff for this work but advice is given where infestations are found and so that occupiers can deal with any infestation a stock of poison is kept at the office for sale to them. There is also the specialist Contractor in the town who will deal with any infestation and has regular contracts with a number of business firms and farmers.

HOUSING.

The survey of unfit houses in the area has now been completed and is proving invaluable in planning clearance of such properties.

The Council is continuing to build new houses and is concentrating on the rehousing of families from unfit properties which are then closed or demolished. It is interesting to note that since slum clearance commenced 123 houses have been closed or pulled down. In many cases the sites of demolished properties are being redeveloped by the Council thus saving land and preventing the unfit properties becoming derelict and unsightly. Two Clearance Areas at Great Fencote containing 6 houses have been confirmed during the year and these sites have been purchased by the Council and are to be redeveloped.

Council House and Bungalow building has proceeded steadily and 43 houses have been completed. In addition 12 private houses have been built in various parts of the district. Private development in Bedale has been rather restricted of late due to the lack of building sites but this has now been eased by the opening up of a site in Firby Road, capable of accommodating about 100 houses. This site is owned by a private builder and should ease the private housing position very considerably.

Improvement Grants, both Standard and Discretionary, have been taken up steadily during the year and are resulting in a general improvement in housing standards. Some closed houses have been completely reconditioned and are now providing very good accommodation. There are indications that more of these houses will be similarly dealt with and this is being encouraged by the Council.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There remain four licenced slaughterhouses in the area and all are of good standard. Considerable improvements are in progress at one of the premises and a proper stunning pen is being installed. Plans are also being made to fit a stunning pen at the only remaining slaughterhouse without such facilities.

Meat inspection continues to receive careful attention and the method of carrying out the work has not varied from the previous year. A general shortage of pigs occurred during the latter part of the year which reduced the amount of work at the Bacon Factory but this was more than offset by a large increase in the Abattoir, Aiskew. The total number of food animals slaughtered during the year amounted to 85,459 compared with 82,602 for 1958. Sunday slaughtering continues to be a regular practice resulting in the services of a Meat Inspector being required on all seven days of the week.

A new business in the slaughtering and dressing of poultry at The Abattoir, Aiskew, has been commenced and some 2,500 birds per week are being dealt with. It is, of course, impossible to make a 100% inspection of these but a 'spotting' system is in use and birds of doubtful quality are detained by the staff for inspection by the Meat Inspector.

A statement showing the animals slaughtered and meat condemned is attached which clearly shows the percentage of animals slaughtered which were affected with disease. It is interesting to note that as compared with the 1958 figures the incidence of Tuberculosis in cows has dropped by 2·5% but in the case of pigs it has increased by ·9%. In the case of 'other diseases' there has been a very considerable increase in both cows and other cattle due, it is felt, largely to an increase in parasitic and similar infections of the liver.

The arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat remain unchanged and are generally satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk is supplied to the area by 20 retailers, of these 10 are producer retailers and 10 are milk dealers who obtain their supplies already bottled from the large wholesale dairies. In this case all the dealers supply designated milk and there is no difficulty with bottle washing and storage as these are dealt with by the wholesalers when the bottles are returned to them.

FOOD SHOPS AND FOOD HYGIENE.

The number of shops in the area has remained unchanged, all are generally satisfactory and are inspected to ensure that they maintain a good standard.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public or private baths in the district and persons wishing to take advantage of such facilities must visit one of the nearby towns.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year ending DECEMBER, 1959.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	3756	213	132	21266	60092	
Number inspected	3756	213	132	21266	60092	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	6	14	5	133	90	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	801	29	2	755	733	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	21.45	20.2	5.3	4.2	1.36	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	1	2	-	-	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	277	51	-	-	2366	
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	7.4	24.9	-	-	3.9	
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned						
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.						

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	10	3
Scarlet Fever.	1	Nil
Measles	217	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	9	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil
Dysentery (Bacillary)	2	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year one new case of tuberculosis of the lungs as occurring in a woman - aged 34 years. During the same period a woman aged 80 years died from the same disease affecting the lungs.

In concluding my Report I would like to thank your Public Health Inspectors and also your Waterwork's Manager for the very valuable and efficient help they have rendered during the year.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALAN W. HANSELL,

Medical Officer of Health.